

## A Trek Through Isaiah 28 - 33:1-24

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Isaiah said Yahweh is Lord of history; true security is found in Him.

Is this true? Six woes introduce the greatest of Isaiah's interim fulfillments.

Today woe 6 part 1

<b>The Lord of History (28:1 - 37:38)</b>					
1st Woe: The word of God and the purpose of God 28:1-29	2nd Woe: Is anything too hard for the LORD? 29:1-14	3rd Woe: Spiritual transformation 29:15-24	4th Woe: Faithlessness and faithfulness 30:1-33	5th Woe: All things new 31:1 - 32:20	6th Woe: Home at last 33:1 - 35:10
Historical Epilogue 36:1 - 37:38					

The sixth woe: Home at last 33:1 - 35:10

- Here is the final outcome in the end times: The nations are destroyed and Yahweh reigns in Zion. His people come home in celebration.

Similar to the third woe 29:15-24

- Present situation 29:15-16
- Transformation 29:17-21
- Application to Israel 29:22-24

Continues the themes from the fifth woe: (1) coming King (2) disaster before blessing (3) blessings awaiting the faithful

Structure

- Prologue 33:1-12
  - Zion's salvation 33:1-6
  - World judgment 33:7-12
- First proclamation: promise of the new Zion 33:13-24
- Second proclamation: warning of coming judgment 34:1-17
- Epilogue: Pilgrims to Zion 35:1-10

Prologue 33:1-12

Zion's salvation 33:1-6

Treachery and coming destruction 33:1

Isaiah 33:1 (LSB): Woe to you, O destroyer, While you were not destroyed; And he who is treacherous, while others did not deal treacherously with him. As soon as you finish destroying, you will be destroyed; As soon as you cease to deal treacherously, others will deal treacherously with you.

- Woe to you
  - Speaking to all the world powers from Assyria to the end times who would oppress God's people
- O destroyer, While you were not destroyed; And he who is treacherous, while others did not deal treacherously with him.
  - As Assyria, each would be all-powerful in its time, boasting, characterized by destruction and treachery.
- As soon as you finish destroying, you will be destroyed; As soon as you cease to deal treacherously, others will deal treacherously with you.
  - The truth: God is the Lord of history. As Dan 2:21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings...
  - When their appointed time is finished, each will come to their own destruction. The judgment will fit the sin.

Prayer and answer 33:2-6

Prayer to Yahweh 33:2

Isaiah 33:2 (LSB): O Yahweh, be gracious to us; we have hoped in You. Be their strength every morning, Our salvation also in the time of distress.

- O Yahweh, be gracious to us; we have hoped in You.
  - The remnant at prayer
- Be their strength every morning
  - Means of action.
  - Day by day
- Our salvation also in the time of distress
  - True security

The prayer answered: the nations destroyed 33:3-4

Isaiah 33:3-4 (LSB): At the sound of the tumult peoples flee; At the lifting up of Yourself nations scatter.

4 Your spoil is gathered as the caterpillar gathers; As locusts rushing about men rush about on it.

- V3 The nations scattered
  - At the sound of the tumult... At the lifting up of Yourself
    - Sound of the tumult. Lit tumultuous sound: God speaking.
    - Lifting up of yourself. God arising
    - Parallel: God speaking, God acting
    - As Is 30:30-31 And Yahweh will cause his majestic voice to be heard...The Assyrians will be terror-stricken at the voice of Yahweh
  - Peoples flee...nations scatter
    - Destruction of the unbelieving nations, those who before boasted
    - Perfect tense: certainty
- V4 The spoil gathered
  - Two pictures of God's people reaping the rewards of God's victory
  - your spoil is gathered as the caterpillar gathers
    - Caterpillar. Lit locust.
    - May refer to the practice of gathering locusts to destroy them. Then a picture of a great amount of spoil
    - May refer to the locusts consuming all. Then a picture of the spoil completely taken.
  - As locusts rushing about men rush about on it
    - Locusts. Lit swarm (of insects)
    - Picture of men swarming over the spoil

The prayer answered: Zion established 33:5-6

Isaiah 33:5–6 (LSB): Yahweh is exalted, for He dwells on high; He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness.

6 And He will be the stability of your times, A wealth of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; The fear of Yahweh is his treasure.

- V5a True exaltation
  - Yahweh is exalted, for He dwells on high
    - The victory over the nations confirms what Isaiah saw in Is 6: Yahweh is the one who is truly high, inaccessible, out of reach
    - Contrast the boasting of the king of Assyria in Is 10:10-11 “As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols, Whose graven images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria, Shall I not do to Jerusalem and her images Just as I have done to Samaria and her idols?”
- V5b-6 Coming blessings
  - He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness
    - Redeeming His city according to His word
    - Filling her with His attributes
  - he will be the stability of your times
    - Stability. Lit constancy, trustworthiness. From the same root as faith.
    - Through the changing times of their history.
  - A wealth of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge
    - Salvation (plural): in all circumstances
    - Wisdom. Subjective: skill for living.
    - Knowledge. Objective: understanding truth
  - The fear of Yahweh is His treasure
    - His: Belongs to Yahweh. Given to His people and becomes their treasure
  - Progression: stability of your times < a wealth of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge < fear of Yahweh (given by Him)

World judgment 33:7-12

God's people in crisis 33:7-9

Isaiah 33:7-9 (LSB): Behold, their brave men cry in the streets; The messengers of peace weep bitterly.

8 The highways are desolate, the traveler has ceased; He has broken the covenant, he has rejected the cities; He has no regard for man.

9 The land mourns and languishes, Lebanon is humiliated and withers; Sharon is like a desert plain, And Bashan and Carmel lose their foliage.

- Judah in despair. All earthly hope is gone: Babylon defeated, Egypt defeated, Sennacherib has accepted the tribute that he had demanded for peace and now proceeds with his invasion
- V7-8 Nation in despair
  - their brave men cry in the streets
    - Military might has failed. All of Judah's fortified cities have been taken. The Assyrian army is approaching Jerusalem.
  - messengers of peace weep bitterly...He has broken the covenant, he has rejected the cities
    - Diplomacy has failed. Sennacherib has accepted the tribute that he had demanded for peace, then broken the covenant and now proceeds with his invasion
    - Cities. Heb maybe "witnesses" referring to witnesses of the covenant.
    - Typical Assyrian treachery
  - The highways are desolate, the traveler has ceased.
    - Commerce ended because of the Assyrian threat
  - He has no regard for man.
    - Assyrian cruelty
- V9 Land devastated
  - Personified: mourns and languishes. Maybe actual or figurative.
  - Lebanon (the permanent)
    - Withers away
  - Sharon (the beautiful)
    - is like a desert,
  - Bashan (the fertile pasture) and Carmel (the garden land)
    - lose their foliage

Yahweh arises; the nations fall 33:10-12

Isaiah 33:10–12 (LSB): Now I will be on high,” says Yahweh, “Now I will be lifted up, now I will be lifted up.

11 “You have conceived chaff, you will give birth to stubble; My breath will consume you like a fire.

12 “The peoples will be burned to lime, Like cut thorns which are burned in the fire.

- V10 Yahweh exalted
  - Now.
    - At the proper time
  - I will be on high...I will be lifted up..I will be lifted up
    - 2x for emphasis
    - As Is 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up
    - What Isaiah saw will be seen among the nations
- V11-12 the nations destroyed
- The prophet speaks to the nations
- You have conceived...you will give birth
  - Much activity
- Chaff...stubble
  - Product of the activity
  - Worthless
  - Fuel for the burning
- My breath will consume you like a fire
  - Better “Your breath”: the eager panting of the Assyrians after their prey
  - Their eagerness will destroy them
- Peoples
  - Nations surrounding Judah
  - Both those attacking her and those to whom she looked for security.
- Burned to lime
  - As limestone is reduced to dust when burned
  - Completely consumed
- Like cut thorns which are burned in the fire
  - Dangerous when green
  - When dry, quickly consumed
- Contrasting outcomes
  - The world boasts and comes to nothing.
  - God speaks. His word comes to pass. He is exalted.
  - Here is faith: believing His word.

First proclamation: promise of the new Zion 33:13-24

Chiastic structure

- V13 Summons
- V14-16 Zion's people 1
- V17-19 Zion's King 1
- V20 The city of peace
- V21-23 Zion's King 2
- V24 Zion's people 2

Summons 33:13

Isaiah 33:13 (LSB): You who are far away, hear what I have done; And you who are near, acknowledge My might."

- You who are far away...you who are near
  - Everyone
- Hear what I have done
  - Become aware of the works of Yahweh
- Acknowledge my might
  - Might. Power of accomplishment
  - Understand the meaning of the works.

Zion's people 1 33:14-16

Isaiah 33:14–16 (LSB): Sinners in Zion are in dread;

Trembling has seized the godless. "Who among us can sojourn with the consuming fire? Who among us can sojourn with continual burning?"

15 He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly; He who rejects greedy gain of oppression, And shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe; He who stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed And shuts his eyes from looking upon evil;

16 He will dwell on the heights, His refuge will be the strongholds of the cliffs; His bread will be given him, His water will be sure.

- V14 Conviction of sin
  - Sinners in Zion are in dread; Trembling has seized the godless.
    - Sinners. Those who fall short of God's law
    - Godless . Profane. Dismissing God.
    - In dread...trembling. No longer scoffers who thought they were secure (Is 28:14) or complacent daughters at ease (Is 32:9)
    - As Isaiah at his calling in Is 6:5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts."
  - Who among us can sojourn with the consuming fire? Who among us can sojourn with continual burning??
    - As Is 29:1 Ariel the altar hearth
    - Sojourn with. Abide with the divine presence.
    - Who among us. As Ro 3:23 All have sinned and fall short...
- V15 Residence requirements
  - walks righteously
    - Righteously. Lit in righteousness: plural of amplitude
    - All aspects of life
  - speaks uprightly. All speech
  - rejects greedy gain of oppression. Relationships
  - shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe. Justice before personal gain
  - stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed And shuts his eyes from looking upon evil
    - Guarding the mind
    - Bloodshed. Lit bloodguilt. What brings guilt before God either for the person or for others
    - Evil. Wickedness, depravity
    - Hearing about. Listening to, paying heed to
    - Looking upon. Behold, consider, examine. More than a passing glance



- V16 Residence rewards
  - he will dwell on the heights
    - High, toward the heavens
    - Able to see far
    - Above the morass
  - His refuge will be the strongholds of the cliffs. True security
  - his bread will be given him; his water will be sure. Provision
- God's people will be convicted of their sin, will change their behavior from wickedness to righteousness and will dwell with their God. Somehow their sin will be forgiven and their hearts changed. Isaiah here is concerned with the end result. Later he will speak of how this is brought about.

#### Zion's King 1 33:17-19

Isaiah 33:17–19 (LSB): Your eyes will behold the King in His beauty; They will see a far-distant land.

18 Your heart will meditate on terror: "Where is he who counts? Where is he who weighs? Where is he who counts the towers?"

19 You will no longer see a fierce people, A people of unintelligible speech which no one comprehends, Of a stammering tongue which no one understands.

- V17a His beauty
  - Your eyes will behold
    - Who? The same people who were called sinners and godless above
    - How? Not said. But note that they are repentant.
  - The king
    - Heb no definite article. Lit "a king". Indefinite for emphasis.
    - As Is 32:1 Behold, a king will reign in righteousness
  - Beauty. Personal excellence
- V17b His realm
  - a far-distant land. "A land of distances": wide expanse
- V18-19 His enemies gone
  - Your heart will meditate on terror
    - God's people looking back on the terror they had known.
    - Near term, the Assyrians. Far term, the world city.
  - Where is he who counts...he who weighs...he who counts the towers
    - The bureaucracy of oppression
    - Gone
  - You will not longer see...
    - a fierce people. Proud
    - A people of unintelligible speech. Foreign to God's people
    - Gone

The city of peace 33:20

Isaiah 33:20 (LSB)

20Behold Zion, the city of our appointed times; Your eyes will see Jerusalem, an abode at ease, A tent which will not be folded; Its stakes will never be pulled up, Nor any of its cords ever be torn apart.

- Behold. To gaze upon. In contrast to the terror they had known.
- Zion...Jerusalem. God's city
- appointed times
  - Meetings with God
  - Commemorating the exodus and redemption: God's delivery of His people.
- Abode at ease. Peace
- Tent which will not be folded
  - Tent. Reminiscent of Israel in the wilderness when God was among them.
  - Not be folded. No longer nomadic. Home at last.

Zion's King 2 33:21-23

Isaiah 33:21-23 (LSB)

21But there the Mighty One, Yahweh, will be for us A place of rivers and wide canals On which no boat with oars will go, And on which no mighty ship will pass—

22For Yahweh is our judge, Yahweh is our lawgiver, Yahweh is our king; He will save us—

23Your cords hang slack; They cannot hold the base of their mast firmly, Nor spread out the sail. Then the prey of an abundant spoil will be divided; The lame will take the plunder.

- V21a True security
  - But there the Mighty One, Yahweh, will be for us
    - Why God's people will move their tent no more.
- V21b Peaceful waters
  - A place of rivers
    - Highways of commerce
  - wide canals
    - Lit Nile canals.
    - Perhaps for irrigation
  - No boat with oars...no mighty ship
    - No ships of war
- V22 Salvation in Yahweh
  - The climax to ch 28-33: Where is true security to be found? In the coming King
  - Portrayed in three pictures
  - Judge
    - As in the time of the judges.
    - In time of trouble providing deliverance and salvation
  - Lawgiver
    - Making laws
  - King
    - The promised Davidic King
  - he will save us
    - Another hint.
    - Yahweh is able to save and willing to save.
- V23 Victory provided
  - Speaking to Judah
  - Picture of a crippled ship which carries off the spoil of victory
  - Your cords hang slack; They cannot hold the base of their mast firmly, Nor spread out the sail.
    - All of Judah's self-sufficiency could not win the victory
  - Then the prey of an abundant spoil will be divided; The lame will take the plunder.
    - From the King's victory

Zion's people 2 33:24

Isaiah 33:24 (LSB)

24 And no one who dwells there will say, "I am sick"; The people who inhabit there will be forgiven their iniquity.

- no one who dwells there will say, "I am sick"
  - Physical well-being
- The people who inhabit there will be forgiven their iniquity
  - Spiritual well-being
  - Forgiven. Lit bear, carry.
    - As the scapegoat in Lv 16:21-22 And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. 22 The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself...
    - A picture of the people's sins being carried away.
    - Not said how this would be done.

Application: Our treasure

Isaiah 33:2 (LSB)

20 Yahweh, be gracious to us; we have hoped in You. Be their strength every morning, Our salvation also in the time of distress.

- Prayer of faith for strength and salvation

Is 33:6 And He will be the stability of your times, A wealth of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; The fear of Yahweh is his treasure.

- Progression: stability of your times < a wealth of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge < fear of Yahweh (given by Him)

As David when threatened by Absalom (Ps 3)

V1-2 David's plight

- David's son Absalom conspired to dethrone David and make himself king. He "stole away the hearts of the men of Israel" (2 Sam 15:6) and "the conspiracy was strong, for the people increased continually with Absalom." (2 Sam 15:12). David and his followers fled Jerusalem to escape. Absalom entered the city and took possession of the throne. David was in great danger: Ahithophel said that he could defeat David with only 12000 men (2 Sam 17:1).
- David notes two threats
  - Many adversaries
  - Accused of being abandoned by God
- Here is the attack of Satan

V3-4 David's response

- V3 Affirms that his security was in Yahweh
- V4 Prays to Yahweh. Confident that Yahweh has answered him.

V5-6 David's confidence

- In the midst of the crisis he sleeps and awakens safely.
- He affirms that he is not afraid of men.
- Because Yahweh sustains him.

V7 David's prayer

- To Yahweh
- Arise and save me.
- My enemies are already defeated.
- Absalom was defeated. He fled and was killed by Joab (2 Sam 18:14). David remained king. (2 Sam 19:8)

V8 David's praise

- Giving Yahweh the glory
- Asking for His continued blessing.

Back to Is 33:6

When the hard time came, David feared Yahweh rather than men. He received wisdom and knowledge and the salvation he needed. Yahweh was the stability of his times. Not easy because David was suffering the consequences of his sin with Bathsheba

For us, when hard times come, let us trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. We will receive wisdom and knowledge and the salvation that we need, and He will be the stability of our times.

### References

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